

Testimony of Karen Rotella March 8, 2011

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**Supporting Proposed Senate Bill 985**

Hospitality and tourism are important segments of the service industry in Connecticut. Wine is becoming a larger segment in both. We now have approximately 25 wineries in the state and I believe that number will continue to rise in the future. We currently need a trained labor force to accommodate this growth. The role of the community college is to prepare students to either enter the workforce upon graduation or to prepare them to transfer where they can continue their studies towards a higher degree. The end goal for these students is to obtain a job.

I believe that the best education is obtained through a hands- on approach. Our students will become better educated and be able to excel at their career choice in the hospitality industry with your support of Senate Bill 985.